AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Substitute Specification, filed January 10, 2006, at the locations indicated, where strikethroughs and double brackets indicate deletions and underlining indicates additions, as follows:

1. Please add the following paragraph immediately after paragraph [0063] as follows:

Fig. 7E is a schematic sectional side view of the device of Figs. 7A – 7D wherein the support for the magnet is rotated by an electric motor;

2. Please amend paragraph [0065] as follows:

Fig. 9 is a schematic front view of the upper limb of a device according to the invention; [[and]]

3. Please amend paragraph [0066] as follows:

Figs. 10A – 10D are schematic longitudinal sectional views of different shapes of magnetizable bars (with attracted particles) usable in devices of the invention; [[.]]

4. Please add the following paragraphs immediately after paragraph [0066] as follows:

Fig. 11 is a schematic side view of the device of Fig. 5 wherein the magnet is coupled to a pneumatic drive;

Fig. 12 is an enlarged schematic side view of the head piece of the device of Figs. 1A – 1B wherein the bars are rotated by an electric drive;

Fig. 13A is an enlarged schematic side view of the head piece of the device of Figs. 1A – 1B and a sample holder in a lower position;

Fig. 13B is a schematic side view of the head piece and sample holder of Fig. 13A with the sample holder in an upper position;

Fig. 14 is a schematic front view of the upper limb of Fig. 9 and a program controlled laboratory robot system;

Fig. 15 is a schematic sectional side view of the device of Fig. 7E with a program-controlled processor coupled to the electric motor;

Fig. 16 is an enlarged schematic side view of the head piece of Fig. 12 with a program-controlled processor coupled to the electric motor;

Fig. 17 is an enlarged partial top plan schematic view of a device of an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 18 is an enlarged partial top plan schematic view of the device of Fig. 17 with the upper limb removed;

Fig. 19 is a schematic sectional side view of the device of Fig. 15 with a thermostatable cooling or heating means;

Fig. 20 is a schematic front view of the device of Fig. 14 with a pipetting station connected to the program-controlled robot system;

Fig. 21 is a schematic front view of the device of Fig. 20 with suction means connected to the program-controlled robot system; and

Fig. 22 is a schematic front view of the device of Fig. 21 including a photometric measuring device.

5. Please add the following paragraph immediately after paragraph [0072] as follows:

Fig. 12 is an enlarged view of the head piece (8) wherein the bars (7a, 7b 7c) are rotatably disposed about their respective longitudinal axes in bearings (71a, 71b, 71c). Each of the bars (7a, 7b, 7c) is attached to one of a first, second, or third cogwheel or friction wheel (72a, 72b, 72c). The first, second, and third cogwheels (72a, 72b, 72c) are engaged with one another. A

drive unit (70) includes an electromotor (74), a power supply line (75), and a shaft (73) connected to a fourth cogwheel (72d), which engages the third cogwheel (72c). Turning of the fourth cogwheel (72d) turns the third cogwheel (72c), which turns the second cogwheel (72b), which turns the first cogwheel (72a), thereby rotating the bars (7a, 7b, 7c). Fig. 16 shows a program-controlled processor (110) that controls the movement of the electromotor (74).

6. Please add the following paragraph immediately after paragraph [0073] as follows:

Referring to Figs. 13A-13B, the sample holder (11) may be moved vertically by a control unit (90). In Fig. 13A, the sample holder (11) is in a lowered positioned and the bars (7) are generally spaced from the depressions (10) in the sample container (9). In Fig. 13B, the sample holder (11) is in a raised position such that the bars (7) are immersed within respective depressions (10) of the sample container (9). The control unit (90) is coupled to a drive unit (80) and controls the action of a motor (81). The motor (81) drives a belt (82) that activates a cogwheel (85). The cogwheel (85) engages a gear rack (83) coupled to the sample holder (11) in order to move the sample holder (11) upward or downward. The drive unit (80) also includes a sensor or contact (86), such as a photoelectric barrier, that generates a signal when the sample holder (11) is in the raised position shown in Fig. 13B.

7. Please amend paragraph [0075] as follows:

Fig. 5 shows an embodiment of the device according to the invention (likewise in side view), wherein a displaceable (double arrow) permanent magnet (15) is provided in the recess (16). Fig. 5 shows the activated state, where the permanent magnet causes a magnetic field to be formed between the poles (4, 5). For deactivation, the magnet is displaced outwardly, out of the magnetic circuit of the device (1). In Fig. 11, for example, the magnet (15) is connected to a pneumatic drive (60) via a drive piston (62) disposed within a pneumatic cylinder (61) that is in communication with fluid inlet/outlet pipes (63). The pneumatic drive (60) may also alternatively be a hydraulic drive.

8. Please amend paragraph [0077] as follows:

Figs. 7A to 7D show different views of a particularly preferred embodiment, wherein a magnet (15) is placed on a support (40), which is rotatable in a horizontal plane about axis Y. The magnet (15) can thereby be moved into or out of the region of the magnetic circuit (iron circuit) by rotating the support (40) between the activated state (Figs. 7C, 7D) and the deactivated state (Figs. 7A, 7B). The short circuit ring (20), which is not represented in these Figs. 7A to 7D, is provided with an appropriate recess in the region of the support (40) or the shielding material is provided in an incomplete manner on that side of the device. The support (40) is preferably provided in the form of a turntable, or possibly as a rotatable arm, moved by a known drive. For example, Fig. 7E shows an electric motor (50), powered by a power supply line (51), connected via a shaft 52 to the support (40) for rotation. Optionally, two or more magnets can be attached on the support. Fig. 15 shows a program-controlled processor (110) for controlling the movement of the electric motor (50).

9. Please add the following paragraph immediately after paragraph [0080] as follows:

Fig. 14 shows a program-controlled laboratory robot system (100) including the holder (11) carrying containers (9a, 9b, 9c), such as microtiter plates, having a plurality of depressions 10. Program-controlled device (101) transports the holder (11) in either direction via active rotation of drive rollers (102, 103).

10. Please add the following paragraphs immediately after paragraph [0081] as follows:

Fig. 17 is a top view of the device wherein the upper limb (2) is shown transparently. Head piece (8) is mounted at the lower side of the upper limb (2) via guide rails (120, 121) within which the head piece (8) is movable in a vertical plane. The guide rails (120, 121) are affixed to the lower side of the upper limb (2). The head piece (8) is connected to an electric motor (122) via a driving rod (125), hinges (124, 126), and a driving disk (123) to which the driving rod (125) is mounted. The program-controlled processor (110) controls the movement of the electric motor (122) (e.g., rotational speed of the motor (122), and hence the frequency of a

shaking motion caused by moving the head piece (8) along said guide rails (120, 121) in the direction shown by the arrow).

Fig. 18 is a top view of the device with the upper limb (2)removed and the lower limb (5) shown in phantom. The holder (11) is mounted to an upper side of the lower limb (5) via guide rails (130, 131) within which the holder (11) is movable in a vertical plane. The guide rails (130, 131) are fixed to the upper side of the lower limb (5). The holder (11) is connected to an electric motor (132) via a driving rod (135), hinges (134, 136), and a driving disk (133) to which the driving rod (135) is mounted. The program-controlled processor (110) controls the movement of the electric motor (132) (e.g., rotational speed of the motor (132), and hence the frequency of a shaking motion caused by moving the holder (11) along said guide rails (130, 131) in the direction shown by the arrow).

Fig. 19 shows a thermostatable cooling or heating means (140) arranged between the lower limb (5) and the holder (11), and is connected to the program-controlled processor (110) via line (141). Processor (110) acts as a "common control" as it controls the cooling/heating means (140) as well as the movement of the magnet (15).

Fig. 20 shows a pipetting station (150) connected to the program-controlled device (101) via a line (151). Fig. 21 shows a suction means (160), including a suction pump (162), connected to the program-controlled device (101) via a line (161).

Fig. 22 shows an analytic apparatus (170) for photometric measuring or luminescence detection that includes a light emitting device (173) and a measuring/detecting device (170, 172). The holder (11) is preferably made from transparent material. The analytic apparatus (170) is connected to the program-controlled device (101) via a line (171).